Semja Update
Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association
May 2022

SEMJA's Ron Brooks Award to Marion Hayden

Detroit bassist, bandleader, and educator Marion Hayden has been chosen as this year's winner of the Ron Brooks Award from SEMJA.

On hearing the news that she had received this award, Hayden was delighted since Brooks was one of her heroes and a fellow bass player.

Hayden has been active on the Detroit jazz scene since the age of 15, early on she was mentored by trumpeter Marcus Belgrave and saxophonist Wendell Harrison and later by pianists Teddy Harris Jr., Kenn Cox, Charles Boles, and Buddy Budson, and drummer Roy Brooks. In turn she has mentored scores of up-and-coming jazz students at area universities and high schools. In 1989 Hayden was a co-founder with Miche Braden and others of the pioneering all-women jazz ensemble Straight Ahead which recorded three albums for Atlantic.

Hayden has been a first-call bass player in Detroit for a number of years and has appeared with many local and national artists, including Bobby McFerrin, Nancy Wilson, Geri Allen, Steve Turre, Lester Bowie, James Carter, Joe Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Frank Morgan, Jon Hendricks, Hank Jones, Kirk Lightsey, Bobby Hutcherson, Larry Willis, Vanessa Rubin, Sheila Jordan, Mulgrew Miller, Annie Ross and many others. Recently she has appeared regularly with the Detroit Jazz Festival All-Stars led by tenorist and festival director Chris Collins. She is also a member of drummer Sean Dobbins' Modern Jazz Messengers.

The Ron Brooks Award is given annually to Detroit musicians, educators, or broadcasters, who have made significant contributions to the Detroit jazz community. Previous awardees include Ernie Rodgers, Louis Smith, George Benson, Kenn Cox, Matt Michaels, Bess Bonnier, Ed Love and Hazen Schumacher. Hayden will receive her award when Straight Ahead appears at the Father's Day Brunch for the Michigan Jazz Festival at noon on June 19 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Tickets for the Brunch can be purchased at *michiganjazzfestival.org*.

Redman/Fortner/McBride/ Blade at Hill Auditorium

BY LARS BJORN

The all-star group of saxman Joshua Redman, bassist Christian McBride, and drummer Brian Blade visited Hill Auditorium at the University of Michigan on April 21 for a Mood Swing Reunion (named for Redman's 1994 album). The concert opened with UMS announcing that pianist Brad Mehldau had taken ill and would be replaced by Sullivan Fortner, who I had encountered earlier accompanying Cecile McLorin Salvant. As much as I was looking forward to hearing Mehldau again, Fortner turned out to be an excellent stand-in.

The group played several songs from their 2020 recording (*Round Again*). "Silly Little Love Song" was a groovy, very danceable piece. One of McBride's compositions, "Silly Diss" from the same album, was clever and Monkish, with Redman doing the honors on soprano sax and featuring memorable exchanges between all members towards the end of the piece.

SEMJA Review

McBride's tone on his bass is formidable and his walking paired beautifully with Blade's more free-wheeling drumming. Mostly Redman showcased his robust and soulful tenor. His role as a spokesman for the group was a more mixed blessing, as he seemed delighted in being obtuse and absent-minded. The audience was enthusiastic, and the applause might have contributed to the encore.

Music in Palmer Woods Homes Returns

Covid-19 is waning and after a two-year pause the Music in Palmer Woods's Homes will return on Memorial Day weekend and continue each summer month. Some restrictions will stay in place: all guests and participants must be vaccinated and show proof of it. Masks are encouraged when inside the tent where you will listen to the music. Since this series takes place in private homes you have to reserve tickets in advance and you will receive directions to the concert location via email the week of the event. Please email *concertseries@palmerwoods.org* or call Barbara at 313-891-2514/313-574-6487. You will receive electronic tickets when you purchase online.

The concerts planned are as follows:

- **Saturday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.**
  Bill Meyer & SONEO Latin Jazz – with Michelle McKinney, Dulce Checkler, Allan Dennard, Kasan Belgrave, Steve Hunter, and Eddie Caraballo
- **Sunday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m.**
  Thornetta Davis & Band
- **Saturday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.**
  Straight Ahead – with Marion Hayden, Gayelynne McKinney, Alina Morr, Yancyy, Kymberli Wright
- **Saturday, July 23**
  Charlie Parker Centennial Jazz Ambassadors – with A. Spencer Barefield,Rafael Leafar, Trunino Lowe, Brian Juarez and Everett Reid

For more information, please go to *palmerwoods.org*

Around Town

BY LARS BJORN

Michael G Nastos celebrated his 70th Birthday with an open bash at his retirement home April 3. It was a happy affair with lots of music and old friends congregating. Pictured here are some of the main players: drummer Bob Sweet's Trio with bassist Kurt Krahnke and various horn players: trumpeter Ingrid Racine, tenorist Paul VornHagen. Nastos contributed with some of his jazz-oriented poetry in the style of the Beats.

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2022

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is back with a program of music of interest to all, including jazz and blues fans.

The Heather Schwartz Project will play South Maple Park in Ann Arbor on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please dress appropriately for the weather for this outdoor concert. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, umbrellas and picnic supplies. Schwartz's project got started at the Raven's Club, downtown Ann Arbor, less than a decade ago. Her program includes blues, jazz, gospel and R & B, and for this engagement she is backed by trumpeter Ingrid Racine, guitarist Chuck Newsome, bassist Josef Deas and drummer David Alvarez III.

The Gabriel Brass Band led by Dameon Gabriel will play Fireman's Park in Ypsilanti on June 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Obituary for David Usher

BY LARS BJORN AND JIM GALLERT

David (Dave) Usher was known as a pioneer in the field of oil pollution. His company, Marine Pollution Control, aided in the cleanup of oil spills and leaks on land or sea, anywhere on the planet. His office was on East Jefferson Street in Detroit, but the nerve center of his business was inside his spacious apartment located in downtown Detroit. Jim remembers visiting Usher in !988: "He had a row of fax machines against one wall. They were connected to the environmental departments of governments world-wide" Before MPC, Usher drove oil trucks for his father's company, Usher Oil Company.

But Usher's real love was jazz. A born-and-bred Detroiter, Usher grew up surrounded by music. His mother "was an ardent listener of that (classical) music." His brothers played various instruments. Usher gravitated to promotion, and he mounted his first concert age sixteen, using a friends rehearsal band.

Shortly after, he was sent to the Farragut Academy in Manhattan. It was during that time he met Dizzy Gillespie, then helming his orchestra on 52nd Street. Diz was struggling to find gasoline for the band bus, and Usher was able to help him out. Thus began a lifelong friendship.

Usher's first attempt at starting a record label was in 1948. It was named Emanon, after a Gillespie record. It was short-lived but did issue a few gems under Kenny Clarke's leadership. That set the stage for a partnership with Gillespie, DeeGee records. Usher provided the promotion and production; Gillespie was the idea man.

The label was a success, but foundered after a few years. But Usher was always deeply embedded in jazz. He founded Marine Pollution Control in 1968. MPC ran parallel to A&R positions at Argo Records, where he produced Barry Harris' first trio record and another one by Sonny Stitt. In his later years he served on the Board of the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Italian-American Jazz at Trinosophes

Trinosophes will feature a unique group on May 18 at 8:00 p.m. IDR — short for Italian Doc Remix is made up of vocalist Francesco Pellegrino, guitarist composer Marco Cappelli, bassist and clarinetist Doug Wieselman, trombonist Roberto Schiano, contrabassist Ken Filiano, and drummer Jim Pugliese. IDR has carved out a unique musical niche on NYC's Downtown scene since 2004. The ensemble fuses jazz improvisation, rock, and Italian folkloric/early music sources to excavate the cultural memory of generations of Italian immigrants.

Imaginate Open for Jazz

Imaginate is a restaurant in Royal Oak that now features jazz six nights a week, Tuesday through Sunday with no cover charge. The lineup in May features trios and quartets led by drummer Louis Jones, Kris Kurzawa and Trunino Lowe. Imaginate is located at 401 South Lafayette Ave. in Royal Oak.

jazz events
May

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

ATTENTION all venue owners, musicians, and listeners
Please let us know about upcoming jazz events in the area!

- Write us at SEMJA
  712 East Ann St.
  Ann Arbor,MI 48104-1502
- Phone us at 734-668-7470
- Submit information online at *www.semja.org/submit*

We will include notices if they reach us by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Aretha's Jazz Café at Music Hall

350 Madison
DETROIT 313-887-8501

MAY

4	6:00	Foxxy Gwensday
10	7:00	Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra
11	6:00	Foxxy Gwendsay
12	8:00	Dee Lucas
13	8:00	Water Seed – with special guest The Gabriel Brass Band
17	7:00	Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra
25	7:00	Foxxy Gwensday presents G Note 7

ONGOING

Sun	6:00	Aretha's Jazz Jam

Scott Gwinnell Orchestra

Baker's Keyboard Lounge

theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com
20510 Livernois
DETROIT 313-345-6300

ONGOING

Fri	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio – with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams
Sat	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio – with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams

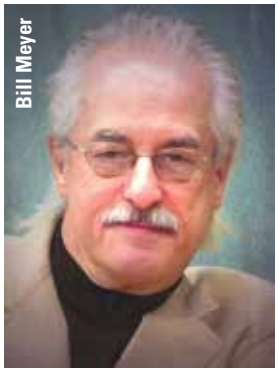
Ralphe Armstrong

Bert's Jazz Club

2727 Russell Outside in Eastern Market
DETROIT 313-657-8493

ONGOING

Thu	7:00	Bill Meyer Group – with Ibrahim Jones, Butter Hawkins


Bill Meyer

Tim Haldeman

Blue LLama Jazz Club

www.bluellamaclub.com
314 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR

MAY

1	5:00 7:30	Jordan VanHemert Quartet *
3	7:00	Mathis Picard: Solo Piano
4	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesdays: Urban Tropical – with Alina Morr, John Douglas, Chris Kaercher, Eddie Carabello, Djallo Djakate, Armando Vega
5	7:00	Tim Haldeman Trio [3]
6	7:00	The Claudettes – with Johnny Iguana, Berit Ulseth, Zach Verdoorn, Michael Caskey [3]
7	7:00	Brendon Davis Quartet *
10	7:00	Bob Sweet Quartet – with Andrew Bishop, Max Bowen, Kurt Krahnke [2]
12	12:00	Djangophonique – with Andrew Brown, Tyler Rindo, Zach Croft, Jorian Olk-Szost [3]
13	7:00	Morgan's Organ – with special guests Bobby Streng & Dale Grisa, Ralph Tope *
17	7:00	Sarah D'Angelo & Jake Reichbart Trio – with Nick Colandro [2]
18	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesdays: Armando Vega & the 313 Salsa Band [3]
19	7:00	Josef Deas Trio [3]
25	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesdays: The Lunar Octet – with Paul VornHagen [3]

[2] Two sets
[3] Three sets
* Dinner and a show. Ticket required

Cadieux Café

4300 Cadieux Rd.
DETROIT 313-882-8560

MAY

8	3:00	Airey B
8	7:00	Luther "Bad Man" Keith
15	3:00	Djangophonique
22	3:00	Dan Devins & the Blues Delegates
22	7:00	Funk Brothers Tribute

ONGOING

Mon	8:00	Blue Mondays: Bobby East Open Jam – with Tosha Owens and friends

Luthor "Bad Man" Keith

Cliff Bells

www.cliffbells.com
2030 Park Ave at West Adams
DETROIT 313-961-2543

MAY

1	7:30 9:30	Caleb Curtis Quintet
5–7	7:30 9:30	Rodney Whitaker Quartet – with Terrell Stafford, Tim Warfield, Bruce Barth, Dana Hall, Rockelle Fortin
8	7:30 9:30	Alex Harding & Organ Nation
12–14	7:30 9:30	Diego Rivera Quartet
15	7:30 9:30	Andre Wright Powerful Organ Quartet
19	7:30 9:30	Jonathan Barber and VISION AHEAD
20–23	7:30 9:30	Brandon Williams
27–29	7:30 9:30	James Carter Organ – with Gerard Gibbs, Alex White

ONGOING

Wed	7:30 9:30	Noah Jackson and Full Circle

Dirty Dog Jazz Café

www.dirtydogjazz.com
97 Kercheval
GROSSE PTE. FARMS 313-882-5299

APRIL

4, 5	6:30 9:00	Ben Sharkey
6, 7	6:30 9:00	Kevin Jones
11–14	6:30 9:00	Alexander Zonjic
18, 19	7:00	Michael Zaporski
20, 21	6:30 9:00	Michael Zaporski
25, 26	7:00	Kimmie Horne
27, 28	6:30 9:00	Kimmie Horne

ONGOING

Tue	6:00	Ron English

The Earle

www.theearle.com
121 West Washington St.
ANN ARBOR 734-994-0211

ONGOING

Tue	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Wed	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Thu	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Fri	6:45	Robert Warren plus various
Sat	6:45	Robert Warren plus various

Imaginate Restaurant

imaginaterestaurant.com
401 South Lafayette Ave.
ROYAL OAK 248-633-8899

MAY

5	6:30	Louis Jones Trio
6, 7	6:30	Kris Kurzawa
12, 13	6:30	Trunino Lowe Quartet
19, 20	6:30	Dave Vessella

ONGOING

Wed	6:30	Eat It Up Trio

Kerrytown Concert House

www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com
315 North Fourth Ave.
ANN ARBOR 734-769-2999

MAY

8	2:00	Ellen Rowe Trio: The Women Behind the Words – featuring Sunny Wilkinson & Marion Hayden
17	8:00	Passing the Torch – featuring master bassist Marion Hayden and saxophonist Kaleigh Wilder
19	8:00	Tamir Hendelman: Richard Rogers Reinventions
20	8:00	Aidan Cafferty's Homeward Bound – with Estar Cohen, Joshua Catania, Travis Swanson, Jonathan Taylor
21	8:00	Creole du Nord: Cajun Folk & New Orleans Zydeco

Lucille's Jazz Lounge

lucillesjazzlounge.com
1447 North Summit St.
TOLEDO, OH

MAY

6	7:15	Michael J Reed
7	7:15	David Bixler
12	6:15	Ellie Martin
13	7:15	Olivia Van Goor Quartet – with William Bennett, Samuel Harris, Dave Zwolinski
14	7:15	Scott Gwinnell and Something to Live For – with Janelle Reichman, Emma Aboukasm, Rob Bickley, Pete Siers
19	6:15	Doug Horn Trio – with Tony Viviano, Norman Damschroder
20	7:15	Lori Lefevre – with Eric Dickey
28	7:15	Sean Dobbins Trio

Shield's

25101 Telegraph Rd.
SOUTHFIELD 248-476-2674

MAY

7	1:00	Kerry Price and Friends
21	1:00	Music from the Movies – with Scott Gwinnell & Emma Aboukasm, Janelle Reichman, Rob Bickley, Pete Siers
28	1:00	Marilyn "Shuga" Maxwell – with Mike Evans, Jon Reynolds, Paul Price, Roberto Warren

Trinosophes

1464 Gratiot Ave.
DETROIT

MAY

18	8:00	IDR (Italian Doc Remix) – with Marco Cappelli, Jim Pugliese, Doug Wieselman, Roberto Schiano, Ken Filiano
21	7:00	Oluyemi Thomas Detroit Quartet

Weber's Habitat Lounge

www.thehabitatannarbor.com
3050 Jackson Rd.
ANN ARBOR 734-665-3636

ONGOING

Mon	6:00	Kevin Royer, Josef Deas
Tue	6:00	Kevin Royer, Josef Deas
Wed	6:00	Kevin Royer, Josef Deas
Thu	6:00	Kevin Royer, Josef Deas
Sun	5:00	William Marshall Bennett

Wesley's Bar & Grill

1201 Adams St.
TOLEDO

ONGOING

Sat	10:00	[1st & 3rd] Quick Trio – with Zac Kreuz

Zal Gaz Grotto

zalgaz.org
2070 West Stadium Blvd.
ANN ARBOR 734-663-1202

ONGOING

Mon	7:00	Paul Keller Orchestra
Tue	5:30	Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band

Upcoming Jazz Events

JUNE

4	Craig Strain Orchestra • Shield's, Southfield
11	PORK • Shield's, Southfield
19	Michigan Jazz Festival, Father's Day Brunch Schoolcraft College, Livonia

JULY

17	Michigan Jazz Festival • Schoolcraft College, Livonia

SEPTEMBER

2–5	Detroit Jazz Festival• Downtown Detroit

712 East Ann St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502

Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 240
Ann Arbor, MI

Membership

New

Saxlove

Renewals

Fred Eurich
Lester Floyd
Bonnie Gabowitz
David Williams

The Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association

(SEMJA) was formed in 1987 for the purpose of promoting understanding and appreciation of jazz as an art form. The organization is comprised of professional musicians, jazz scholars, jazz writers, club owners, broadcasters and listeners. The organization operates through a Board and with a volunteer staff.

SEMJA is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

Inquiries

All mail should be sent to SEMJA,
712 East Ann St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502
For phone messages
call: 734.668.7470
email: *semja@semja.org*

Publication

The *SEMJA Update* is published monthly and sent to members at no cost. It is edited by Lars Bjorn and Piotr Michalowski with additional assistance from Barton Polot (production editor), Margot Campos (layout), and Jeff Gaynor.

SEMJA Board Meeting

The SEMJA Board meets normally on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. This month's meeting on May 17 will be held online via video conferencing (Zoom). Please call Lars at 734-668-7470 if you have questions.

Board Members

Lars Bjorn, *President*
Piotr Michalowski, *Vice-president*
Barbara Kramer, *Treasurer*
Jeff Gaynor, *Secretary*
Barton Polot, *Webmaster and Production Editor*
Ron Brooks, *President Emeritus*
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Ira Lax
Ellen Rowe
Sandy Schopbach
Linda Yohn

SEMJA Membership Application

Mail to: SEMJA • 712 East Ann St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502

❑ New Member
❑ Renewal

Membership Levels

❑ Basic	$30
❑ Student	$20
❑ Couple	$40
❑ Patron	$60
❑ Nonprofit Corp.	$50
❑ Corporate	$250
❑ Lifetime	$500

Amount Enclosed $_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

❑ Check payable to **SEMJA** ❑ Credit Card |___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|

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